34 >> SHINIGAMI RECORD IV

EVEN THE BIRDSONG HAS GONE SILENT...

ZA GLSHD

WHEN I WAS THROWN OVERBOARD FROM THAT SHIP, I THOUGHT I WAS DOOMED...

GASA (RUSTLE)

GASA

I DIDN'T DROWN IN THE END, BUT REACHING HERE CERTAINLY HASN'T BEEN EASY.

"THE LEAST-NOTICED PLACE IN THE WORLD"...

I TRAVELED ACROSS THE SEA TO LOCATE THE SPOT, FINDING MYSELF ON AN ISLAND NATION.

IF THIS WINDS UP BEING LIKE ANYWHERE ELSE, WHATEVER WILL I DO...?

GASA

WOW...

A MYS-TERIOUS REALM OF ETERNAL SILENCE...

IT'S AS IF THE WORLD HAS FOR-GOTTEN ABOUT THIS LAND...

HUFF.

HUFF.

ZAZA (WHOOSH)

GASA (RUSTLE)

HFF...

HFF...

THIS IS PERFECT ...!

GASA

GASA

FROM TODAY ON, THIS IS WHERE I BELONG.

IT'S SETTLED, THEN.

ちょこん
CHOKON (WHUMP)

CHIRA (GLANCE)
ちら

.....

BUT NOW THAT I'M HERE...

...I WILL NEED SOMEPLACE TO LIVE.

SOMETHING TO KEEP THE WIND AND RAIN AT BAY, AT LEAST.

THOSE "HOMES" THE HUMANS HAVE ARE QUITE TRICKY TO BUILD, I KNOW...

A TAD BEYOND ME TO CONSTRUCT ONE OF THOSE BY MYSELF.

THOUGH WHY WOULD I NEED ANYTHING THAT FANCY? I WILL BE LIVING ALONE.

NO. DON'T BE SILLY. IT'S TOO HARD.

BUT I CAN'T STAND THE HEAT, OR THE COLD...

BUT...

AH, BUT...

FOR NOW, I'LL NEED SOME MATERIALS TO KEEP THE ELEMENTS AWAY...

IF I CAN CARRY THEM...

I STILL DON'T HAVE ANY GREAT IDEAS EITHER. ALL THAT TIME I WASTED...

OH NO. WHENEVER I GET LOST IN THOUGHT LIKE THIS, I LOSE ALL TRACK OF TIME.

とっぷり

TOPPURI (GLOOM)

...

AGH!

...WELL, SO BE IT.

GUESS I GOTTA DO IT...

HAAAH...

DO IT? DO WHAT?

HUH!?

WHA—!!??

KOTEN (TUMBLE)

WELL, BUILD A HOUSE, OF COURSE.

NOT THAT IT HAS TO BE ANYTHING LUXURIOUS. AS LONG AS I HAVE A PLACE TO SIT BACK AND—

!?

!?

WHA...

WHO ARE YOU!?

SU (SHFF)

YOU...
I HOPE YOU'RE PREPARED TO PAY FOR SCARING ME...

PAKI (CRAK)

PAKI

OH!

UH, DID I SURPRISE YOU?

SORRY, SORRY.

YOU WERE SO DEEP IN THOUGHT OVER THERE...

...THEN YOU WENT AND SPOKE OUT OF THE BLUE. I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS KIND OF FUNNY, SO...

WANA

WANA (TREMBLE)

WHAT'S SO FUNNY TO YOU, DAMMIT !?

I'M TRYING MY BEST TO BUILD A HOME HERE!

JUST GO AWAY ALREADY!

OH, I SEE! BUILDING A HOME, HUH?

WELL, DO YOU NEED ANY HELP?

'COS IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, I'D BE GLAD TO LEND A HAND!

HUH...?

?

WHY IS THIS GRINNING FOOL ACTING LIKE THIS?

I JUST TOLD HIM TO GO AWAY, DIDN'T I?

YES, I DEFI-NITELY DID.

ARE YOU INSANE?

I MUST DRIVE THIS STRANGER AWAY BEFORE HE TRIES TO CATCH ME IN HIS LIES...

WAIT, NO! NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT!

I MEAN, I JUST THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE TO GET A CLOSER LOOK AT YOU, BUT...

NO, NO, I WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING UNTOWARD, HONEST!

YOU'RE PLOTTING SOMETHING AGAINST ME, AREN'T YOU?

LEAVE NOW, OR YOU'LL REGRET IT.

HUH!?

I MEAN, DEFINITELY NOT...

HEH HEH HEH...

WHAT DID HE MEAN BY "GET A CLOSER LOOK AT YOU"? HE MAKES NO SENSE.

HE'S TOUCHED IN THE HEAD, ISN'T HE?

WHO IS THIS GUY?

IF HE'S TRYING TO TRICK ME, HE'S DOING A TERRIBLE JOB OF IT.

HE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

I'VE BEEN TRICKED BY PEOPLE LIKE YOU FOR AGES.

YOU'D HAVE TO BE INSANE TO TRUST ANY-ONE AFTER WHAT I'VE SEEN.

OOH...

EITHER WAY...

...NO DOUBT HE'LL SPIN A VOLUME OF TALL TALES FOR ME LIKE EVERY OTHER HUMAN.

I CAN'T TRUST YOU.

WELL, WHAT CAN I DO TO CONVINCE YOU TO TRUST ME?

I'D LOVE TO HELP YOU OUT ANY WAY I CAN.

I DON'T NEED YOU TO REPAY ME OR ANYTHING.

I'D LIKE YOU TO GO AWAY, PLEASE...

.....

HMPH!

IN FACT, IF IT'LL HELP, I'D BE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING YOU SAY, STARTING RIGHT NOW.

O-OF COURSE!

ARE YOU WILLING TO BELIEVE ME NOW!?

PAA (BLUSH)

HUH!?

...ANY-THING I SAY, RIGHT?

SU (SSK)

...?

TSUKA (PLOD)

TSUKA

HMM?

WHY ARE YOU POINTING DOWN...?

BUILD A HOUSE HERE.

.....

CHIRA (GLANCE)

ちら…。

THERE. YOU SEE?

HE'S DRIPPING IN A COLD SWEAT.

TARA

たら

TARA

たら

TARA (DRIP)

たら

A TAD MEAN OF ME, PERHAPS, BUT THAT SHOULD FINALLY CHASE HIM OFF.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?

BUILD A HOUSE RIGHT HERE.

I'LL DO IT!

AND ONCE YOU'RE DONE, GO AWAY IMMEDI-ATELY.

IF YOU CAN'T AGREE TO THAT, I WON'T WASTE MY TIME WITH YOU...

IT FIGURES. THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN DO IT ALL BY HIMSELF, OF COURSE.

I'LL DO IT, I'LL DO IT!

AND ONCE HE GOES AWAY, I CAN TAKE MY TIME AND BUILD EXACTLY THE—

...HUH?

I'D...

I'D BE HAPPY TO BUILD A HOUSE FOR YOU!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?

FOR YOU, THAT'D BE NOTHING!

NIKO (GRIN)

THIS MAN REALLY IS TOUCHED.

WOW...

BUILDING A HOUSE BY HIMSELF?

DOES HE HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH MATERIAL AND EFFORT THAT WOULD TAKE?

DOES HE EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HOME BUILDING?

OR IS HE JUST AN IDIOT?

...MAYBE HE'S JUST ANOTHER SMOOTH TALKER AFTER ALL.

MOJI

MOJI

MOJI (FIDGET)

...UGH.
I MUST STOP
OBTAINING SUCH
USELESS
KNOWLEDGE.

HE
SCRATCHES
HIS HEAD
WITH HIS
RIGHT HAND
WHENEVER
HE FEELS
AWKWARD.

IF YOU
THINK
YOU CAN
DO IT, GO
AHEAD.

UNTIL
YOU
DO...

...I'LL
HAVE MY EYE
ON YOU, YOU
HEAR ME?

...ALL
RIGHT.

HE'LL ADMIT DEFEAT MIDWAY, NO DOUBT.

IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE FUN, WATCHING HIM TUCK HIS TAIL AND FLEE.

YOU'LL WATCH ME...?

PAA (BLUSH)

はぁ…っ

YOU...

...NO SENSE AT ALL.

THIS MAKES...

UH...

DELVING INTO THE BRAIN OF SOMEONE THIS OFF-KILTER DOES NOT APPEAL TO ME AT ALL.

NO.

MAYBE I SHOULD PEER INTO HIS HEAD...

NAMES ARE A HUMAN CUSTOM. A FOREIGN CONCEPT TO ME.

I DON'T HAVE ONE.

OKAY! UM, I'LL GET TO WORK TOMOR-ROW!

...SO... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

MY NAME?

OH...

YOU DON'T, HUH?

I'M TSUKI-HIKO.

GOOD TO MEET YOU!

WELL, I'LL TELL YOU MINE, THEN, OKAY?

BUT...

WHAT AN UTTER FOOL. WHETHER HE GIVES HIS NAME OR NOT, ALL HUMANS ARE ON THE SAME LEVEL IN MY EYES.

TSUKI-HIKO, EH?

LETTING THIS STRANGE ENCOUNTER END WITHOUT KNOWING THAT SEEMS SUCH A WASTE.

...ALL RIGHT.

WHAT COULD HE BE HIDING BEHIND THAT FACE... THOSE PROMISES...?

...HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DEMANDING ANYTHING FROM ME.

OF COURSE NOT!

LET'S TRY TO UNDER-STAND HIM— WHAT HE MEANS, INSIDE OF HIS HEART.

BETTER NOT RUN AWAY FROM ME...

...HUMAN.

KAGEROU
DAZE